BOLIVIA: Garcia Meza Announces Resignation

Junta leader General Garcia Meza announced yesterday that he would surrender the presidency to a military-designated successor on 6 August. He called on his comrades to name his replacement by 17 July--the first anniversary of the military coup which brought him to power. Meza stated also he would accept a position as armed forces commander in chief. The announcement follows two weeks of turbulence in which Garcia Meza was twice challenged by military insurrections. [redacted]

Garcia Meza's regime has been continually beset by coup plots, but his opponents were unable to unite behind a successor or secure the support of the major military power brokers in the capital. Unlike earlier plots, however, the two most recent coup attempts raised the possibility of a confrontation among military units. The need to resolve these dangerous splits peacefully probably prompted key unit commanders to press Garcia Meza into offering his resignation. [redacted]

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